

## ABSTRACT

A slave can take any of a start state in which the slave can communicate with a master, a communication control state in which at least the slave can receive a start request signal transmitted by the master and makes a transition to the start state upon reception of the start request signal, or a standby state in which power is less consumed than in the start state or the communication control state. The slave further includes a state control section for repeatedly operating so that the slave in the standby state is switched to the communication control state at a predetermined timing and is switched to the standby state when the communication control state continues for a predetermined time period without receiving the start request signal.